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Unemployment hits two-year high

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Knicks win in double overtime

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Soviet Jew spied on Israel for Kremlin

By BATSHEVA TSUR

A spy who sent Israel's secrets by Morse code to the KGB, and is serving a 15-year sentence, was yesterday exposed to the public after the Supreme Court lifted a ban on publication of the affair.

The ban was lifted at the state's request so the case could serve as a precedent in determining heavy sentences for espionage. There have been unconfirmed reports of the arrest of other new immigrants on suspicion of spying.

Spy Roman Weisfeld, today 55, was recruited by the KGB in the Soviet Union in 1976 with the express purpose of making aliyah in order to collect military and political information about Israel. He underwent a period of training in various espionage techniques and in 1980 was sent on his mission.

Weisfeld was instructed to collect information about Israel's relations with Arab countries, the US, and Third World countries. This he relayed to the former Soviet Union with equipment he brought from his homeland. The information was believed to have been passed on to Arab countries as well.

In return, he received large sums of money and a furnished apartment in the USSR, which he returned to.

Weisfeld, an electrical engineer, found himself a job with the Elco company in Haifa - a job which eventually gained him access to one of Israel's main air bases. He succeeded in maintaining contact with his operators in the KGB for five years with the use of Morse code.

In November 1985, Weisfeld went to Vienna, where he met one of his operators. He received \$3,000 as well as more sophisticated equipment. It was after this visit that Weisfeld began his work on the air base as a company representative. There he was able to collect data on the types and movements of aircraft, the organization of the squadrons, and the storage of weaponry.

This continued for more than two years. In April 1988, Weisfeld

Drink l'haim - salt water being turned into wine

By JUDY SIEGEL

People will soon be able to toast each other with cabernet sauvignon from grapes grown with salty groundwater in the Negev.

Researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Hebrew University and a Turkish researcher from Izmir have succeeded in producing a successful first crop of seedless, purple-red grapes whose wine, to the layman at least, tastes just like cabernet sauvignon.

The success was reported at the international conference on "Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Development of Desert Agriculture," now being held at Ben-Gurion University's Sede Boker campus, organized by BGU and the Science Ministry.

The four-day event is also being attended by experts from Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, and the Palestinian Authority.

Prof. Yiftah Ben-Asher, of BGU's Desert Research Institute, said yesterday that his two dunnams of vines recently produced their first harvest.

A year after he planted his, Sede Boker researchers planted 30



Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein (right) and police investigations division head Cmdr. Sando Mazor leave the Justice Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday after holding consultations on the Bar-On affair.

Hanegbi: I'm clean

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Supreme Court Chief Justice Aharon Barak testified yesterday before the police team probing the Bar-On affair, as the focus of the investigation moved to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

Hanegbi turned down a suggestion that he take a lawyer, saying that he was "clean... strong and optimistic."

At the request of State Attorney Edna Arbel, the police team arrived yesterday afternoon at Barak's office on the second floor of the Supreme Court building in Jerusalem. For 45 minutes, Barak gave them information about what he had heard regarding the appointment of Bar-On as attorney-general from Hanegbi. It was Hanegbi who had told the cabinet, in ambiguous fashion, that he had consulted Barak about the

appointment, intimating that Barak had not opposed the candidacy.

In keeping with the instructions not to discuss the case, the court spokesman remained tightlipped last night, refusing to reveal further details other than that the testimony had taken place.

Reacting to a suggestion made

Suspect scoop may bring down gov't, Page 2

in an Israel Radio interview by the prime minister's attorney Ya'acov Weiroth that he hire a lawyer, Hanegbi said: "I don't need one. The best lawyer for me is the truth... I am clean. I feel strong and optimistic [that the investigation will clear me]."

Hanegbi, who cannot release statements through his spokeswoman Etti Esbed, since both of them were interrogated and are therefore obliged not to speak about the topic, let it be known through "circles close to him" that he had not been the one to propose the appointment of Bar-On.

Hanegbi's "circles" pointed to the prime minister, and were quoted by Channel 1 as saying Netanyahu himself had met with Bar-On even before former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair resigned on December 1.

MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) said yesterday that, if it is proven that either Netanyahu or Hanegbi had knowingly cooperated with crim-

inal elements to decide on the appointment, "such a person could no longer go on serving in his position."

Sarah Hanig adds: Netanyahu is not blaming Hanegbi for the Bar-On appointment, and their relations are unaffected, according to Weiroth.

"Talk about a rift was sparked by Weiroth's comments intimating that the appointment was pushed by Hanegbi, and that Hanegbi let Netanyahu believe his candidacy passed Barak's scrutiny."

"Netanyahu does not feel that he was misled by Hanegbi in any way," Weiroth said, "this despite the fact that the prime minister did not initiate the Bar-On appointment himself."

Hanegbi told Netanyahu an hour before Bar-On's nomination was presented that Barak knows about the appointment. This left Netanyahu with the impression that Barak voiced no opposition, but no one is claiming that Hanegbi sought to mislead here. Perhaps he himself did not understand things fully," Weiroth said.

Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh reportedly backs Netanyahu's version of events.

When an Israel Radio interviewer asked Weiroth whether he recommends that Hanegbi hire himself a lawyer, he replied: "I suggest everybody get a lawyer. Lawyers are not monsters, and getting a lawyer is not an incriminating act. Any citizen who buys and sells a flat ought to have a lawyer, because we are professionals who perform a given service in their chosen field of expertise."

PM finalizes Har Homa

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will announce at tomorrow's ministerial meeting on Jerusalem that he intends to permit the building of 3,500 homes in Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem, alongside the 2,600 for Jews in the first phase of Har Homa.

The figure was agreed upon in a meeting between Netanyahu and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday, and was subsequently confirmed by the Prime Minister's Office.

"Our plan is to agree to 3,500 units for Palestinians spread out in Arab neighborhoods in the city," one official said. "Our plan includes building in neighborhoods such as Silwan, Ras el-Amud, Issawiya and A-Tur."

He said all the Arab building would be permitted "inside the municipal boundaries."

Officials hope that the announcement will mute Palestinian objections to the construction of Har Homa, to which Netanyahu has committed himself amid very heavy coalition pressure.

Officials said they have quietly passed on these intentions to the

Palestinian Authority leadership, despite statements that Israel feels it does not need to consult with the PA on Jerusalem.

As originally envisioned by planners, Har Homa will contain about 6,500 homes. If 2,600 are to be constructed now, it remains unclear when the remaining 3,900 will be built.

Earlier yesterday, Israel-based ambassadors representing the rotating leadership of the European Union gave the Foreign Ministry a demarche on Har Homa. The group includes the ambassadors of the Netherlands, which holds the rotating chairmanship, Ireland, Britain, and the European Commission.

According to a statement issued after the meeting, the envoys said Europeans believe the Netanyahu government is committed to the peace process, but "they are very worried" about plans for Har Homa.

Foreign Ministry deputy director-general Yoav Biran, who is filling in for Director-General Eitan Bentsur, who is abroad, noted that most of the land expropriated for the project came from Jews. He added that there is nothing in the Oslo Accords which restricts Israeli construction in

Jerusalem, but complained about Palestinian institutions in the city.

Har Homa figured prominently in Netanyahu's meeting with Jordan's King Hussein earlier this week.

When publicly asked about the project, Hussein sought to play down the differences, but did say that Jordan did not want any action taken that could undermine the peace process.

Meanwhile, there are indications that as a result of the Netanyahu-Hussein meeting, Crown Prince Hassan may visit soon. Officials say that Hassan may come for the Saturday night opening of the Yitzhak Rabin study center in Tel Aviv.

Hassan was due to visit last October, but the trip was cancelled as a result of the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit.

Jordanian Information Minister Marwan Muasher said yesterday that the Jordanian and Israeli transport ministers would meet shortly to discuss Jordan's request to ease the movement of goods into the parts of the West Bank controlled by the PA. Muasher said Israel has also agreed to broaden the list of items that Jordan can export to the West Bank.

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Coalition rallies behind Netanyahu

By LIAT COLLINS

The coalition expressed its support yesterday for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in the wake of leaks about his questioning under caution in the Bar-On affair.

"We should all stand behind the prime minister. From the initial reports it seems all the charges involving criminal aspects have been ruled out and the rest have still not been proven," MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud), who heads the Land of Israel Front, said.

Kleiner said that despite his group's opposition to the prime minister's delays in construction of Jewish housing in Har Homa, Netanyahu should be given full support in the Bar-On affair. "One should not link the Hebron-Bar-On affair with building Har Homa."

The Likud faction executive accused the opposition of being bad losers.

In a statement issued after a meeting yesterday morning, the party said: "Those who failed in the elections are trying to go against the voters' will."

The executive unanimously voted to offer its full support to Netanyahu "in his struggle against the opposition which is demanding his suspension while relying on rumors, leaks, and slurs."

It accused the opposition of trying to go against the voters' will and to prevent the prime minister from carrying out his work.

In the coalition-executive meeting, coalition chairman MK Michael Eitan said all attempts by the opposition to suspend or topple the prime minister should be rejected.

Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said the media "is carrying out a

lynch of the prime minister," MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas) told the coalition meeting: "For seven years [Shas leader Aryeh] Deri has been persecuted in the same manner, the same leaks. You're only feeling what we have felt for seven years."

Third Way faction chairman Yehuda Harel said no steps should be taken until the investigation ends. However, should the charges prove true, the government would have no right to exist, he said.

The National Religious Party, in its weekly faction meeting, also announced full support of the prime minister. It also expressed confidence in the manner in which the police and State Attorney's Office are carrying out the investigation.

The NRP MKs were not unanimous in their backing of the prime minister, however. Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom said: "There is no doubt that Netanyahu and [Justice Minister] Tzahi Hanegbi coordinated the appointment of the attorney-general with Shas. Even if it isn't criminal, that's no way to behave and therefore I won't strengthen or weaken the premier but wait for the results of the investigation."

At the Labor faction meeting, party leader Shimon Peres called on his MKs to refrain from reaching conclusions before the end of the investigation and also warned against putting pressure on the premier.

He did, however, read out a statement saying the party is "very worried about the public norms of the government. To act responsibly, the party will wait until the end of the investigation to sound its opinion."

Hebron Jews balk over street

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Jewish community in Hebron has protested the decision to open part of King David (Shuhada) Street, which runs near the Jewish quarter, to two-way traffic.

In a letter sent yesterday to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Knesset

members, the community leaders demanded a delay in opening the road to two-way traffic, until improvements are made to ensure the safety of the community's residents.

"There are no sidewalks for our children to walk on and no pedestrian crossings are marked," said Hebron spokesman Noam Amon, adding that opening the road also presents a security risk to the settlers.

The section of the road was opened earlier this month to emergency and municipal traffic and taxis on a one-way basis, as the first stage of a four-stage plan to restore the street to normal use. The portion opened consists of a 150-meter section from Gross Square, near the Avraham Avinu Quarter, to the Padesco Gas station and then past Beit Romano toward the market.

The road was closed off at both ends after the Machpela Cave massacre three years ago, in fear of revenge attacks against settlers.

Avi Benayahu, the defense minister's media coordinator, said the matter was being examined, and they would reply to the community when a decision had been reached.



Turkish Chief of Staff Gen. Ismail Karadayi (center) pays his respects yesterday at Yad Vashem.

(Brian Hender)

Turkish army chief arrives

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Turkish Chief of Staff Gen. Ismail Karadayi begins his official visit with the IDF and defense establishment today. Both sides hope it will culminate with strengthened military links between the two countries.

An IDF honor guard is to receive Karadayi at Camp Rabin in Tel Aviv, where his host, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak is to introduce him to Defense Minister Yitzhak

Mordechai. Karadayi's visit comes as the pro-Western Turkish military is openly pushing for maintaining strategic links with Israel, despite opposition from Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Karadayi arrived yesterday and immediately visited Yad Vashem. It is his first visit to Israel and comes a year after a visit by his deputy, Gen. Cevik Bir, who signed an agreement to hold joint maneuvers and training exercises.

Israeli pilots have subsequently used Turkish airspace for training, and Israel Aircraft Industries is to upgrade 54 Turkish F-4s in a deal worth \$640 million.

Karadayi is expected to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later this week.

Israel has never fully disclosed its military agreement with Turkey, which has drawn fire from countries like Egypt, Syria, and Iran. But Turkish officials have said the agreement will allow Israeli warplanes to seek

sanctuary in Turkey, and Turkey will also allow Israel to gather intelligence information on Syria and Iran from inside its borders. In turn, Israel will help Turkey organize its border control along the frontier with Syria and Iran.

Syria's relations with Turkey are often tense because of water-sharing disputes and charges that Syria extends support to Kurdish rebels fighting for a homeland in southeast Turkey. Damascus denies this.

Feb. 25: A date filled with painful memories

By JON IMMANUEL and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Today is one of the grimmest anniversaries in Israeli history, marking three years since Baruch Goldstein opened fire with an assault rifle in Hebron's Machpela Cave, and one year since Islamic suicide bombers attacked a bus in Jerusalem and a soldiers' hitchhiking post in Ashkelon.

Goldstein's massacre of 29 worshippers during Ramadan was followed by 24 more Palestinian deaths, as soldiers opened fire to quell the riots which followed.

The series of suicide attacks which followed started in Afula exactly one day after the 40-day mourning period ended.

Peace Now will hold a protest vigil at Baruch Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba at noon today to mark three years since the Machpela Cave massacre. The movement also calls for the removal of the tomb to a more inconspicuous site inside the Green Line.

"The site has turned into a holy site, we demand it be removed elsewhere," said Mossy Raz, Peace Now political secretary. "Even a murderer deserves a decent burial, but elsewhere," he added.

Goldstein's grave is located in the Meir Kahane Park at the entrance to Kiryat Arba. It is set in a tile floor, and there are bookcases for prayer books at the site as well as a faucet for ritual hand washing.

The suspect scoop that may bring down a government

By HERB KEINON

It began as a somewhat suspect scoop in the middle of a Channel 1 newscast last month, when reporter Ayala Hasson alleged that Aryeh Deri handpicked Roni Bar-On for attorney-general, in return for a plea bargain in his bribery trial. It has turned into a story that not only hasn't died, as government officials promised it would, but could very well kill Binyamin

Netanyahu's government. Bar-On, a Jerusalem criminal lawyer, first came to the public's attention on January 10, when Israeli Radio reported that, at the weekly cabinet meeting, he was chosen as the successor to Michael Ben-Yair.

The following Sunday, the country's papers reported a "stormy" cabinet meeting, at which minister after minister opposed the appointment, not only because they were not consulted, but because Bar-On was "not of attorney-general caliber."

But Netanyahu insisted, "How will it look to the public if you will

not approve the appointment," he told the cabinet at one point, according to a *Ma'ariv* report. "It is not possible to push this off until next week, it is impossible. It is within the authority of the prime minister, and the justice minister, to put forth a candidate for attorney-general, and you need to approve the appointment today."

The Hebron agreement came before the cabinet that same week; Shas voted for it.

According to *Ma'ariv*, "Some cabinet members were of the opinion that the Bar-On appointment was made in coordination with the Shas ministers."

"The fact is that the Shas ministers did not not oppose the appointment, did not speak against it, and when [Ariel] Sharon raised the possibility that the appointment was coordinated with them, they chuckled," one senior minister said.

"I know Bar-On, he is a good man, but he can't be a good attorney-general," Ze'ev (Benny) Begin said. "It is inconceivable to appoint people in this manner. He is a political activist, and does not have the needed attributes."

Dan Meridor agreed: "This is not acceptable. It is inconceivable that a political activist be appointed to such an important position."

Bar-On's appointment was eventually approved by a vote of 12-1, with five abstentions. Begin

cast the lone no vote, and the abstentions came from Meridor, David Levy, and Limor Livnat from Likud, and Yitzhak Levy and Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party.

Almost immediately there were reports that Shas was behind the appointment, in exchange for its support for the Hebron deal.

Ma'ariv ran a small story saying that Hammer denied that the NRP abstained because of a "political deal" between Shas and Netanyahu, through which Bar-On would get the attorney-generalship in return for a Shas vote for Hebron redeployment.

Deri was quoted as saying that he knew nothing about the appointment.

After the appointment was made public, a storm raged, but this had more to do with Bar-On's qualifications, rather than news of a deal struck with Shas.

Labor MK Ofer Pines petitioned the High Court, asking for a restraining order and saying the process by which Bar-On was appointed was improper, and done quickly to keep ministers from fully considering the appointment.

And then, in a dramatic turn about, Bar-On - on a day when his character was impugned on radio talk-shows - announced that he would quit the post he had taken up only that morning.

Netanyahu expressed regret over

the decision, and said he had the highest regard for Bar-On.

For the next week, the juicy part of the story was a public fight between Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Livnat over whether Hanegbi had misled the cabinet by saying that Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had supported the appointment.

And then on Wednesday night, January 22, Hasson - in a report that followed news of the day's rainy weather - said that Deri had conditioned Shas's support for the Hebron agreement on Bar-On's receiving the post. Her sources remained anonymous.

The floodgates opened almost immediately. Opposition politicians called for a police or state inquiry into the allegations, while government officials said the report was a fabrication, tendentious, and a manifestation of the way the press is "out to get Netanyahu."

Netanyahu emphatically denied the story. In an interview with Channel 1, he stated that "Deri never proposed or recommended Bar-On in any manner whatsoever. He did not recommend him or press for his appointment. These bizarre reports are out and out lies. There was no conspiracy and this is an attempt at libel... This is entirely baseless, absolute gibberish. I am astounded that the television should publicize such non-

sense. A little more responsibility and professionalism is warranted."

Four days later a police investigation began, with Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz saying it would end "within a matter of days." The investigation is still going strong, nearly a month later.

The attorney-general's seat was filled by Elyakim Rubinstein on January 29, an appointment pundits said would have saved Netanyahu, and the country, much heartache had it been made a few weeks earlier.

On February 6, the nation's attention was diverted by the helicopter collision over She'ar Yashuv. But during this period, the investigation prodded along.

Among those questioned were Hasson, Hanegbi, Deri, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman, Likud mover-and-shaker David Appel, who allegedly brought Bar-On to Deri's attention, and Dan Avi-Yitzhak, Deri's lawyer.

Netanyahu himself was questioned last week in a session that was first described as coopera-

tive, but later termed difficult. It is still not clear whether he was questioned under caution, meaning that he is suspected of a crime and that what he said could be used against him. Netanyahu has since hired a lawyer.

And then last Wednesday, Avi-Yitzhak quit as Deri's lawyer. Avi-Yitzhak was originally Netanyahu's choice for attorney-general, and also was rumored to have been the source of Hasson's story.

His resignation was significant because of the letter he sent to Deri, in which he said: "...I dared for totally relevant reasons to oppose your plan to appoint Bar-On as attorney general..." This went a long way toward confirming Hasson's original report.

If this is true, if Deri pushed - because of his own legal problems - to have Bar-On as attorney-general, the nagging, Watergate-esque question is how much of this did Lieberman, Hanegbi, or Netanyahu know, and does it constitute a crime.

With deep sorrow we announce the death after a long illness of our beloved **ERNST JACOB**. The funeral took place yesterday. Toni Jacob and the Ben-Or family. 44 Rachel Imenu, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-567-1855

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION. The students, faculty and staff express condolences to **Shaul (Paul) R. Feinberg** on the death of his father **MILTON FEINBERG**.

To Rivka and Aharon Eden. Sincere condolences on the passing of your sister **CHANA COHEN**. Su-Keet Ltd. Zag Ltd.

In deep sorrow we announce the death of **CHANA WEINMAN**. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, February 25, 1997 at 1 p.m., leaving from the Sanhedria funeral home for Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem. Her husband, Prof. Joseph Weinman and the grieving family. Shiva at Nofim Tower, Kiryat Hayovel, Jerusalem.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST

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SPY Continued from Page 1

was instructed to meet his operator again in Europe, this time in Berlin. But there was a hitch and the meeting did not take place. Shortly afterwards, he was arrested, tried, and found guilty by the Tel Aviv District Court of aggravated espionage. Weisfeld was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment; an appeal to the Supreme Court was rejected. "The Russian secret service prepares Jews for spying purposes in Israel... Whoever decides to take upon himself the task of spying against Israel faces the danger with open eyes and must realize that he is threatened with severe and substantial punishment," the court wrote in rejecting the appeal.

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Shamir snubs parley of Land of Israel Front

Harel: Without building in Jerusalem there is no coalition

By LIAT COLLINS

A meeting of the Land of Israel Front, lobbying for the immediate construction of Har Homa and other projects in Jerusalem, was stood up by its star speaker yesterday: former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir.

No official reason was given for his absence but MKs deduced that he did not want to openly attack Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a meeting in the Knesset following the latest developments in the "Bar-On-for-Hebron" investigation.

Apart from MKs who are members of the front, the meeting was attended by members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Professors for a Strong Israel and other groups.

Front chairman MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) announced that the prime minister had informed Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert that the ministerial committee on Jerusalem would decide tomorrow to authorize the Har Homa project.

Kleiner repeated his promise to the prime minister that the coalition MKs and their supporters would serve as a safety net for the government if the Jerusalem construction raises opposition.

He also repeated the warning that should the prime minister not realize his commitment to build in the capital, the front would turn into an opposition.

Kleiner did not retract the decision to lead a visit by the Knesset caucus to Ras el-Amud tomorrow during debates in the plenum and said this would depend on construction work starting in the capital. Last week the opposition won several votes in the plenum thanks to the absence of the Front's MKs, on a similar tour.

Olmert, who was also invited to address the front, decided not to appear in view of Netanyahu's promise.

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, who did address the meeting, said at the outset: "We will not be satisfied until we see the bulldozers working. We have received many

promises about building in the past and unfortunately so far they have not been realized."

He stressed the importance of building the city's northern access and ring roads and the E1 project which would link Ma'aleh Adumim to Jerusalem.

Third Way faction chairman Yehuda Harel told his party colleagues "without building in Jerusalem there is no coalition."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, however, wrote to Netanyahu warning him against deciding in favor of the Har Homa project. "Har Homa is not Mount Moriah and Jerusalem will remain Jerusalem without a neighborhood on the site," he said. "I view it as a very serious matter that you are giving in to coalition pressure on such a serious subject which is likely to endanger the entire peace process and bring it to a crisis point."

Sarid likened the Har Homa project to the opening of the exit of the Western Wall Tunnel which sparked rioting in September that took 70 lives.



MK Hanan Porat explains the NRP position to Yuval Rabin yesterday. (Yaacov Harari)

NRP hosts Yuval Rabin

By LIAT COLLINS

The meeting was the message, said Yuval Rabin, head of the An Entire Generation Demands Peace movement, who met yesterday with members of the National Religious Party in the Knesset.

"We have always called for, and continue to call for peace, both at home and with our neighbors," said Rabin, son of the assassinated prime minister.

The meeting was meant to take place before the Hebron redeployment, but was postponed "for technical reasons."

But the message remains relevant, Rabin said. He said it was important to meet with the fourth

largest party in the government, "particularly one which opposes the peace process."

The main outcome of the discussions was the decision to continue to meet in different forums.

Although the meeting was generally quiet, NRP deputy secretary-general Uri Elitzur at one point accused Rabin of "exploiting the call to unity as a trick to promote a controversial issue [the peace process.] And it is only proper for you to express that in public."

Faction chairman Hanan Porat leaped to Rabin's defense telling the room: "We are smart enough to understand what they did and did not say, but we are still convinced that what we have in common is more than what we can't ignore."

Man found shot in mob-style hit

The body of Ya'acov Kohalon, one of those charged with the attempted murder of underworld figure Ze'ev Rosenstein, was found yesterday morning in the Yad Eliahu section of Tel Aviv. According to Magen David Adom paramedic Nadav Castro, he had been shot in the back of the neck.

On Sunday night, police received an anonymous telephone call telling them where the body could be found. But the body was not where the caller said, and it was only after searches lasting until yesterday morning that it was found.

The trial of Kohalon, who was charged along with Rafi Weizman and the missing Ilan Aslan, with shooting and wounding Rosenstein, was to have begun today. Aslan is thought to be behind the shooting, as he suspects Rosenstein of ordering the hit on his brother, gangland kingpin Yehazkel Aslan.

Kohalon was last seen on Friday, and police said he had been killed about two days before his body was found.

Police also said the murder leads them to fear for the life of Ilan Aslan, who disappeared about two months ago. (Itim)

Kalansuwa mops up as Kinneret rises

By DAVID FRUDGE

The forum of Arab Council Heads yesterday called on the public to donate money to help residents of Kalansuwa where 1,500 homes - over a third of the village - were flooded in the recent torrential rains.

Residents of the village, in the Triangle, continued mopping up operations yesterday in the wake of the floods, which resulted when two rivers, Alexander and Tzur, overflowed.

Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the council, said the damage to property in the village was an estimated NIS 20 million, including damage to homes, roads and sewerage and drainage networks.

"We are calling on members of the public, especially in the Arab sector, to donate whatever they can afford, to help the residents of Kalansuwa who have suffered enormously," said Suleiman, who heads the Mash'had Local Council near Nazareth. The council said so far it has not received assistance from the government or any other agencies, despite promises of aid.

The rain, accompanied by isolated thunderstorms, continued yesterday, mainly in the central and southern districts, where there were reports of flooding on some roads.

The Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, near the Dead Sea, was closed to visitors because of the risk of floods. Nature reserves in the North, including the Ayoun stream leading to the Tanur waterfall, were still closed yesterday after the heavy rain, but are expected to reopen today.

The Mt. Hermon ski site, closed since the weekend because of heavy snow, reopened yesterday. Site manager Eli Sagron said the accumulated snow on the lower slopes had reached a depth over 1.3 meters, with nearly 2m. on the peak - the biggest accumulation in the past few years.

Meanwhile, Mekorot reported that Lake Kinneret rose by another 5 centimeters yesterday as a result of the strong flow from the Jordan River and other streams. The level, however, is still more than 2m. from its maximum mark.

Summertime Law passes first reading

By LIAT COLLINS

The Summertime Law passed first reading in the Knesset yesterday. The bill calls for summering to be in force from Saturday night March 22, at midnight until September 13. The bill was presented by Interior Minister Eli Shais (Shas).

It passed by a 51-41 vote with one abstention. To ensure it passed, the coalition turned out in force, including the premier and most ministers.

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) demanded Shais reveal the survey his ministry carried out which shows the majority of the public, including religious Jews, favor having summertime for a longer period.

Shais asked for a short period citing, among other things, the difficulties facing religious Jews who need to pray in the mornings before work.

Also yesterday, the Third Way executive met to discuss the Golan Heights and said the party would not be able to stay in a government which harmed Israel's sovereignty on the Golan.

The party will continue a public information campaign together with the Golan Heights Residents Council to promote more settlement there. It intends raising the Golan Heights Law in the Knesset. The law would require a 61 MK majority and a plebiscite to endorse any territorial concessions in areas under Israeli sovereignty.

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NEWS

in brief

Israel, Canada sign research funding pact

Israel and Canada signed an agreement yesterday to provide \$3 million each in funding for the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF).

Canadian Foreign Trade Minister Art Eggleton and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky signed the agreement in Jerusalem. The fund is expected to encourage firms to take advantage of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement, which came into effect January 1. The projects already approved for funding are largely in the biotechnology and information technology fields.

David Harris

Chazan meets Women's League

A four-member delegation of the Women's League, led by Harriet Lainer, met yesterday with MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz), co-chairperson of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, to discuss their work and hear about potential projects and causes to adopt.

Chazan said she was impressed with the work the organization carries out, particularly at a time when many groups are suffering from funding problems and working on a tight budget. Among the ideas she raised is a shelter for battered women to serve the hard-hit sector, whose abuse victims often cannot rely on the help of their families or friends.



Harriet Lainer

Liat Collins

Youth caught without license gets heart attack

Ashdod Magistrate's Court Judge Varda Meroz showed little heart for 18-year-old Meir Ben-Haim, caught driving his friend's car without his license last week, which was only fitting since Ben-Haim suffered a heart attack after he was stopped by a policewoman.

Ben-Haim, who has a congenital heart defect, was stopped by policewoman Molly Kogan, who immediately summoned an ambulance when Ben-Haim collapsed. He was later diagnosed to have suffered a heart attack.

Meroz sentenced him to a NIS 600 fine and suspended his license for eight months.

Irim

IAF chopper pilot makes emergency landing

The pilot of an IAF Cobra attack helicopter made an emergency landing in a field in the Jordan Valley yesterday, fearing his craft had malfunctioned and he was in danger of crashing.

Military sources said the pilot managed to bring the two-seater Cobra down normally, but that technicians had arrived on the scene to try and determine the nature of the suspected malfunction. It was not clear whether the air craft was in danger of crashing, or if the warning signal was a mistake.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Media blamed for negative image of Russian women

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Some 44 percent of the Israeli public believe that many female immigrants from the former Soviet Union are employed in providing sexual services and 65% attribute other negative qualities to them.

The poor image of Russian-speaking immigrant women was the subject yesterday of a symposium sponsored by the Zionist Forum and the Israel Women's Network.

Prof. Galia Golan of the Hebrew University, who presented the results of a survey conducted among 500 veteran Israelis, said the negative aspects of the poll were balanced by the feeling of the overwhelming majority of Israelis that Russian immigration was a positive contribution to the country. For most Israelis, the negative image was derived from the media, she said, and not from per-

sonal contacts. A change in media reporting and increased contacts between immigrants and veterans will change that image, said Golan.

The Forum and the Women's Network have embarked on a year-long campaign aimed at improving the image of Russian immigrant women, a sector which has significantly upgraded Israel's academic and cultural levels in recent years, through the presentation of personal stories in the media, symposiums and other events.

Dr. Dafna Lamish of Tel Aviv University said that a study of the Israeli press in the last two years had shown a propensity to display stories linking Russian-speaking women immigrants with prostitution, with being the victim or perpetrator of violence, and with drunkenness and other deviations from social norms.

Rabbis filmed taking bribes for conversions out on bail

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Two rabbis detained for allegedly taking bribes to speed up conversions are currently under house arrest. They were released on bail Sunday, after being held for 12 days.

This emerged yesterday when police officers briefed the Knesset State Control Committee on the scandal.

The committee convened at the request of Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya), who said most of those affected by the conversion laws are immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

"These are people who considered themselves Jewish all their lives, even if they were not halachically correct," Bronfman said. "They want to join the Jewish people as full members now."

The police said the investigation is continuing and that they had tracked down eight people who had allegedly bribed the rabbis, Michael Dushinsky and Binyamin Bar-Zohar.

The two suspects are not part of the organized court system, said Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, head of the rabbinical courts, after viewing part of a Channel 2 Fact program

in which they were exposed in an undercover film by Ilana Dayan.

"A gloomy picture of the difficulties involved in obtaining a conversion emerged as Dina Yabolsky, principal of an ulpan for conversion, spoke of the trials and tribulations faced by new immigrants from mixed marriages. She said she knew of two cases where students had been approached to give bribes of \$10,000 each.

The root of the problem, she said, is that it takes a year before the court is even prepared to consider a conversion case. The immigrants are kept in a state of tension and

then often refused conversion. Ben-Dahan admitted that, in 1996 alone, only 300 people - out of 1,180 who applied - had received permission to convert.

Committee chairman Razi Cohen (Meretz) said the committee would meet with the chief rabbis, whose representatives failed to appear at yesterday's meeting, and discuss the possibility of facilitating the conversion process.

"It is the long waiting process that leads a hand to all kinds of alternatives, including the alleged scam," Cohen said.



A crane yesterday prepares to lift a huge concrete block that will be used to smash some 100,000 pirate CDs.

Pirate CDs get squashed

By HELEN KAYE

Yesterday morning, a few dozen representatives of local record companies, the Israel Federation of Mediterranean Music, ACUM, and the Israeli branch of the International Federation of Phonographic Industries watched in grim satisfaction as a huge concrete block on the end of a crane pounded some 100,000 pirate CDs into splinters. A bulldozer completed the destruction of what were mostly pop and rock discs.

The haul was the result of numerous police and customs seizures last year, but it is no more

than a drop in the bucket when it comes to the pirate CD industry, which accounts for about 25 percent of the NIS 400 million annual local turnover.

This represents sales and royalties for both local and foreign artists, but whereas only one in four CDs by foreign performers is pirated, pirate versions account for three out of every four local recordings.

According to industry sources, Bulgaria, Ramallah and Hebron are the major sources for pirate discs. Increasing technological sophistication is also making pirate CDs harder to identify.

ACUM general manager Ran Kedar said that because of the pirate industry in the PA, the US is on the verge of blacklisting Israel for the theft of intellectual copyright. John Fenerty, economic officer at the US Embassy, said independently last week that "piracy is costing us billions of dollars worldwide. The administration has decided to make the enforcement of laws relating to all intellectual property rights a major priority."

As in the case of pirate radio stations, the legal system is largely apathetic to copyright theft and delivers a slap on the wrist at best, an ACUM spokesman said.

Abbas: Islamists plotted to kill me

ABU DHABI (Reuters) - Chief Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas said yesterday that Palestinian police had foiled an assassination plot against him last week.

Abbas said Palestinian police received information on a group of three people planning to assassinate him and detained them a week ago. "We do not want to get into the details at this time," he told Reuters

when asked who was behind the plot. Abbas, a close aide to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the three men belonged to "Islamic trends," but would not elaborate.

Abbas, on a visit to the United Arab Emirates, said Palestinian police were questioning the men. Police sources in Gaza refused to comment.

Protest meetings disrupt rail service

By DAVID RUDGE

Passenger rail services were disrupted for two hours yesterday morning due to mass meetings held by the 1,300 employees of Israel Railways.

Management said the temporary walkout, between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., prevented five trains, mainly on the Tel Aviv to Haifa and north line, from running as scheduled.

A spokesman for the railways service said management had denounced the disruptions because of the harm it caused to passengers at a time when more and more people are using trains.

"They could have held this meeting at a time when it would not have affected services to the public and our freight customers," said the spokesman.

Last week, the workers staged a 24-hour wildcat strike, which paralyzed railway services, in protest over plans to restructure the railways.

Under the plan, the railways service is to be separated from the Ports Authority and split into two government companies - one dealing with passenger and freight services and the other with infrastructure and assets.

The workers fear that the planned restructuring will pave the way to privatization and could lead to their rights being eroded. The management spokesman said a meeting was held between workers representatives and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon last Thursday.

He said the workers were assured they would be consulted over any proposed changes and all steps would be coordinated with them.

Furthermore, he said, they were given assurances that their rights and benefits would not be harmed under the separation plans.

Management warned it would take legal steps through the labor courts if the disruptive action by the workers continued.

MK calls on Swiss Speaker to block firing of bank worker

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Avraham Herschson (Likud) sent a telegram yesterday to the Speaker of the Swiss parliament, asking him to prevent the dismissal of Christopher Meili, the bank guard who exposed the destruction of documentation of accounts owned by Jews killed in the Holocaust.

"Don't be a part of Meili's dismissal," wrote Herschson, who heads the Knesset subcommittee on Jewish property restitution. "The man did a good deed and exposed a terrible truth. Don't harm the messenger, prosecute

those responsible for the terrible destruction of evidence."

Meili was fired from the UBS bank after the directorate decided he should not have reported the destruction of the documents to the Jewish community.

Herschson invited Meili to visit Israel as a guest of the committee through contributions by Holocaust survivors.

During Herschson's recent visit to Switzerland, it was decided to establish a joint parliamentary committee to find solutions to the question of the dormant bank accounts whose owners were killed in World War II.

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Mifal Hapayis

Palestinian kills tourist in Empire State shooting

By RICHARD PYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — A Palestinian gunman fired into a crowd on the Empire State Building's 86th-floor observation deck, sending tourists diving for cover and stampeding toward exits. A Danish musician was killed and six other people were injured before the gunman shot himself in the head and later died.

The wounded were a French couple, an Argentine and a Swiss, and two Americans.

The gunman's passport identified him as Ali Abu Kamal, a 69-year-old Palestinian who came to the United States from Cairo on Christmas Eve, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. The passport indicated Abu Kamal was from Ramallah, and was born in Jaffa.

The gunman died without regaining consciousness five hours after the shootings at one of the world's best-known tourist attractions.

couple's 16-year-old daughter was unhurt but was treated for mental shock, authorities said.

The *Daily News* said the French family was being comforted by a French-speaking doctor and expected to make a quick recovery.

Gerard Gunter, 43, of Jersey City, New Jersey, said he found a man with a bullet wound in the head, and tried to help him by cradling his head in towels.

"He was bleeding profusely. He was coughing blood. I took the towels and wrapped them around his head. I just said, 'Hang in there,'" Gunter said.

The *New York Post* said the gunman was the gunman.

Belgian businessman Stef Nys, 36, said he saw the gunman shoot himself in the head and fall to the floor just outside the window of a souvenir shop. A stunned Nys noticed that the elderly shooter's dentures had popped out of his mouth.

"I have never seen so much blood in my life, but the most scary part was when people started to panic," Nys said. In the rush for the exits, two children were hurt when knocked from parents' arms, and four women suffered minor injuries.

Police weren't sure of the significance of the gunman's remarks about Egypt. A city police terrorist

task force and FBI agents were investigating, Giuliani said. Police Commissioner Howard Safir said the shooter apparently acted alone and fired seven shots.

The man was carrying several Arabic-language documents and a receipt showing the purchase of a 380-caliber Beretta semi-automatic pistol in Florida last month, Giuliani said.

Howard Rubenstein, a spokesman for the Empire State Building, said a security camera taped Abu Kamal after he bought a ticket in the ground floor lobby and rode an escalator to the elevator entrance a floor above. The tape was turned over to police.

Rubenstein said the building, which attracts three million visitors a year to the observation deck, would review its security measures. But he said management was satisfied with its current procedures even though they do not include metal detectors or bag searches.

The 102-story Empire State Building was the world's tallest when completed in 1931. It has long since surrendered that title to other edifices, yet it remains the quintessential Manhattan skyscraper.

Its worst disaster occurred July 28, 1945, when a US Army B-25 bomber crashed into its 79th floor, killing three plane crewmen and 11 civilians.



The family of China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, observes his body lying in state at a funeral ceremony in Beijing yesterday. Later a funeral cortege carried Deng's body past crowd-lined streets to a state cemetery to be cremated. (Reuters)

Emotional farewell for Deng

BEIJING (Reuters) — China cremated paramount leader Deng Xiaoping yesterday after his successor President Jiang Zemin and the elite of the ruling Communist Party bowed before the body of the man who transformed the nation.

State television showed their leader to China's millions for the first time in three years, his face pale and puffy, his body dressed in a Mao suit, draped with the red hammer-and-sickle communist flag and showered with flower petals.

Human rights was among the major topics US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said would be raised in meetings with China's leaders after she arrived yesterday on the last stop in her nine-nation tour.

US officials have said Washington does not expect Deng's death to bring any quick improvement in China's human rights and plans to proceed with a UN resolution faulting

Beijing's record.

In a lingering display of pomp-filled rites that Deng had expressly forbidden, it showed his designated heir Jiang, and most of the party elite, wearing black armbands and white paper flowers of mourning in their buttonholes, make three traditional bows of respect to the body.

"Deng looked at peace," the Xinhua news agency said.

In front of the body in the military hospital where it has lain, since Deng died last Wednesday at 92 was a bouquet presented by his wife, Zhao Lin, and their children, with a silk streamer carrying the words: "We will love you forever." Deng's heir, Soviet-trained technocrat Jiang, looking ill at ease, shook hands with Deng's weeping family but said nothing.

A white van bedecked with black and yellow ribbons, the colors of mourning, carried Deng's body at a stately pace from the hospital to

Babaoshan cemetery in western Beijing where Chinese communism's heroes are traditionally laid to rest.

"Scatter Hot Tears for Comrade Xiaoping," read a banner with black characters held up by one group of people. "Go gently, Xiaoping," read another.

Deng's ashes will be scattered at sea.

Analysts said the officially-choreographed display of emotion appeared intended to paper over cracks already appearing among the party leadership within days of Deng's death.

"This type of overstatement seems to be a decision to fight over the corpse... to use it for as much mileage as possible," said Sinologist Geremie Barme. "Something's brewing." Deng's ashes were taken to the cavernous Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square where 10,000 people are to attend a memorial service today and Jiang is to read the eulogy.

Pope to visit Lebanon in May

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) — Pope John Paul II will make a long-awaited visit to Lebanon on May 10-11, three years after cancelling a planned trip for security reasons in the wake of a church bombing, the Vatican said yesterday.

The visit will be the first by a Pope to the country in modern times.

Chief spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls announced the latest date in an already busy 1997 schedule of Papal visits after the Pontiff received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

He said the Pope would preside over the ceremonial close of a synod of the Lebanese Church held at the Vatican in 1995 during his two-day weekend visit to Beirut.

The Vatican called off a planned five-day Papal trip in May 1994 after the bombing of a Maronite church north of Beirut in which 11 Sunday worshippers were killed and 59 injured.

The Pope had been expected to visit the Biblical cities of Tyre and Sidon during the coming trip, but Navarro-Valls said he would stay in the capital.

Vatican sources said the trip was limited to the capital for security reasons. The visit would include a mass and a meeting with young people in Navarro-Valls said.

The Pontiff, who often speaks out in favor of Middle East peace and dreams of visiting the Holy Land by the year 2000, is expected to call for a comprehensive settlement.

The Vatican criticizes both the Israeli and Syrian military presence in Lebanon.

The globe-trotting 78-year-old Pope, the most-traveled leader of the Roman Catholic Church in history, was told by his doctors after an operation to remove his appendix late last year that at 76 and with delicate health, he should slow down.

His agenda for this year, however, is already packed. The Pope is due to visit Sarajevo on April 13, another long-awaited trip, and spend 30 days in his native Poland in early June.

Other visits in 1997 include Prague, Paris and Brazil.

Bubis says Rifkind outrage overdone

BONN (Reuters) — The leader of Germany's Jewish community said yesterday that outrage in Britain over a German newspaper reference to British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind as a Jew was completely overdone.

Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the central council of Jews in Germany, said the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung's* (FAZ) mention of Rifkind's Jewish background may sound worse to English-language speakers than to German-language speakers.

"In the English language it may be considered a profanity to call someone a Jew," Bubis said. "But in German that is not the case. It depends on the context. And in the

context of the FAZ article, that was clearly not the case."

The remark dominated British media at the weekend, taken up with a lingering distrust of Germany that dates back to World War II.

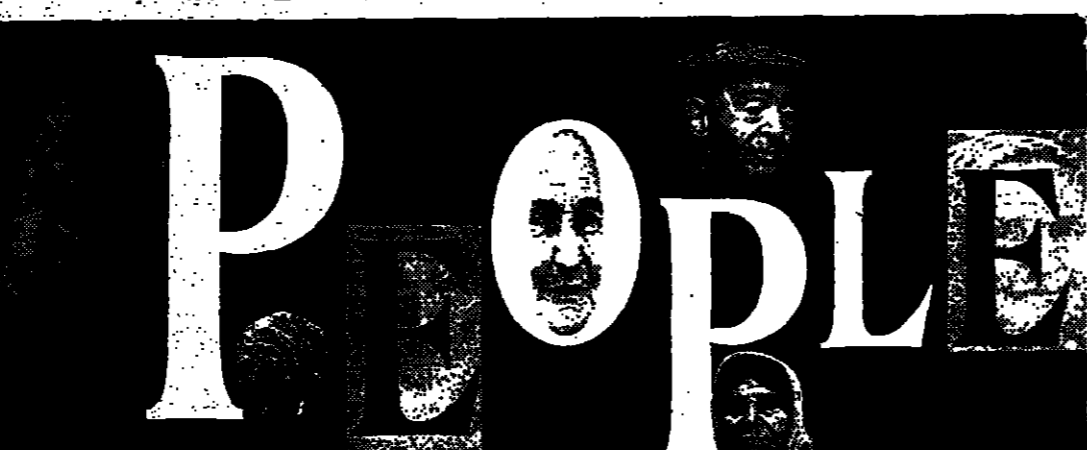
"The journalist who wrote the story was trying to point to an irony about Rifkind quoting Luther," Bubis added. "It was perhaps an unfortunate choice of words, but the reaction is completely overdone." Bubis, a Holocaust survivor, is the highly respected leader of Germany's vestigial Jewish community of some 50,000 members.

He has never hesitated to criticize remarks or actions insulting

to the German Jewish community.

German journalist Michaela Wiegand, writing about a speech made by Rifkind last week, had concluded in the newspaper: "As if he was not completely convinced by his own words, the Jew Rifkind concluded — ironically, apologetically — with a quote from Luther, delivered in German: 'Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise.'"

Former Conservative minister David Hunt, chairman of the British branch of the inter-parliamentary Council Against Antisemitism, said the comment echoed "the language of Hitler" and that he had written to the speaker of the German parliament.



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Netanyahu's Meretz

The Land of Israel Front, a loose formation of right-wing members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition who oppose his policies, held an "emergency meeting" yesterday. The phenomenon of full-blown rightist opposition to Netanyahu, which would have been unthinkable before the election, could well become an integral part of the Israeli political scene.

Netanyahu's break with the Right came in stages. First, after some stalling, he met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, even though few of the conditions he had originally set for such a meeting had been met. Then came the Hebron agreement, in which Netanyahu not only handed over most of the city — second only to Jerusalem in its Jewish historical significance — but locked his government into the Oslo Accord's series of three "further redeployments."

With the Hebron agreement, peace process proponents declared the "Land of Israel" movement to be dead, as did many rightists themselves. This movement, however, may now be recovering from its initial shock at being "betrayed" by Netanyahu, whom they thought of as one of their own.

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud), a vocal opponent of the Hebron agreement and one of the 17 MKs who voted against it, chaired yesterday's emergency meeting. The group has three cardinal demands regarding Jerusalem: build on Har Homa, build in area "E-1" (linking Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem), and build Road 45, which will improve access to Jerusalem from the north.

These are, in fact, modest demands. The group has pointedly decided not to demand the building of a Jewish neighborhood at Ras al-Amud, an area hemmed in by Palestinian neighborhoods. All three are projects that might be supported by a Labor government. The Har Homa project, in particular, was strongly backed by Labor ministers, and was delayed by non-political court cases against it.

In general, the current demands of the Land of Israel Front do not go beyond the government's own guidelines. Gone is the expectation of new settlements; now all that is sought is a continuation of the rate of expansion and building of bypass roads, which also occurred under the Rabin government. It is no surprise that the disappointment on the right over Netanyahu government's not doing more than a Rabin government, is turning to a sense of betrayal with the realization that it is doing less.

In an interview published in *Ma'ariv* last Friday, Yitzhak Shamir minced no words in expressing this feeling. "It is a fact," says

Shamir, "that [Netanyahu] is acting against the principles of the Likud. He has no principles." Shamir seems almost jealous of Arafat. "He's succeeding. He's progressing. Where are we? We are retreating."

So what is Shamir's alternative? He feels that in the end the peace process that began in Madrid when he was prime minister could have led to an agreement with the Palestinians. But an agreement, for Shamir, was not necessarily the main objective. As he fondly recalls his days in a unity government, "Then we did not lose a thing. There was a big aliya. We moved forward economically and improved our security. Peace? We don't have peace today either."

These are hard times for Shamir, because these times are all about giving in, with the questions being how much and in return for what. Even the Land of Israel Front is not demanding that the giving stop, but that it be minimized and that Netanyahu's demands for something in return — the concept of "reciprocity" — be enforced. Shamir himself seems to have given up any pretense of trying to influence events, and is content with the goal of keeping his principles intact.

The rest of the "Land of Israel Front," however, seems to be adjusting to the role of internal opposition — something akin to what Meretz was to the Labor government. Just as Meretz was constantly snipping at Rabin's heels to make sure he did not stray too far to the right, Netanyahu's internal opponents are trying to corral him from straying too far to the left. One difference, however, is that Meretz was a separate party, while most of Netanyahu's rightist opposition is in his own party. Another is that Meretz was more effective over time at steering the government leftward, while the Land of Israel folks seem to be mostly playing catch-up.

The Israeli right could do worse than to learn from its rivals on the other end of the political spectrum. It is a healthy thing for Netanyahu to have a vigorous, pragmatic faction to his right. Such a faction can only strengthen Israel's negotiating position, provided it focuses on truly important issues, not just "hot-button" items that may be less relevant.

The Land of Israel Front is right to wince at what, for them, seems to be pragmatism run amok. Some may even yearn for a leader like Yitzhak Shamir — whatever his faults, you knew where he stood.

But it would be a mistake for Shamir's ideological compatriots to emulate him. To be effective, they too must be pragmatic, as comfortable as it may be to keep one's principles in pristine condition. The challenge facing them is to maintain the balance between core beliefs and their limits in a post-Oslo world.



Say it ain't so, Natan

Buried in the deluge of news copy following the death last week of Deng Xiaoping was a story that brought the China issue home to Jews.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported on February 20 that Israel and China had "agreed to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation" during the visit to Israel by Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing.

Even as the movement to focus on the human rights situation in China has grown in the past couple of years, the increasingly cozy ties between the Jewish state and China have not been troubled by any Israeli or Jewish scruples about dealing with a regime aptly described as "the last of the great dictatorships of this century of wicked dictators."

Some have argued that Israel's position as a small country surrounded by enemies justifies its dealing with evil regimes in an effort to break its isolation. That made sense 20 years ago.

But today, as the peace process continues, Israel is no longer isolated. And since even the Likud government has embraced Oslo, it can no longer claim that the country's survival depends on a policy of making friends with anyone who will deal with the Jewish state.

Israel might be able to afford a moral foreign policy if it wanted one. Much like the US on this same issue, it doesn't.

Separating China from Iran is a major goal of Israeli foreign policy. The Iranians are reportedly getting aid from the Chinese for their nuclear and missile programs. Ironically, at the same time, the Chinese have been cooperating on other military technology projects with Israel.

But it was the second paragraph of the JTA dispatch that stopped me dead in my tracks.

It described the meeting between Li and Israel's Minister of Industry and Trade. According to the ministry's statement, Natan

JONATHAN S. TOBIN

Sharansky expressed disappointment that the level of trade between Israel and China wasn't higher.

Both the JTA story and a similar dispatch from *The Jerusalem Post* Foreign Service spoke of the cooperation planned in a wide variety of industries, especially electronics and telecommunications.

From the point of view of human rights advocates who have been pointing out China's repression of religious believers as well as its widespread use of slave labor from its own gulag — the laogai — in its export industries, this is unsavory stuff.

Israel is far from unique in seeking to profit from trade with China, but that just means being as amoral as everyone else.

Natan Sharansky is a hero, one of the most famous of the refuseniks. At his trial and sentencing 20 years ago when a Soviet court doomed him to decades in the gulag, his ringing assertion of Zionism challenged us to speak out in defense of all Jews trapped in that antisemitic tyranny.

But what made Sharansky really dangerous to his Communist jailers was that he was more than just an advocate for Jewish rights.

Sharansky spoke out on behalf of all victims of Soviet Communism, Jewish or not. He was a one-man model for the sort of selfless human rights activism that has characterized American Jewish groups who have been outspoken on non-Jewish human rights issues

like Bosnia and Rwanda.

WHEN he met with Li and angled for more Israeli involvement in the Chinese economy, did Sharansky remember the countless victims of the Beijing regime? Did he spare a thought for the Chinese prisoners languishing in cold cells in the laogai, perhaps clutching the local equivalent of the miniature volume of the Psalms that Sharansky cherished in the gulag? Did he inquire whether any of the Chinese firms that export \$160 million worth of products to Israel employ prisoner slave labor?

Did he ask about the release of courageous Chinese dissidents like Wei Jingsheng? Did he make a nuisance of himself by talking about human rights in the way so many Americans who deal with the Soviets did when Sharansky languished in Soviet prison camps? Apparently not.

Perhaps Sharansky knows nothing of the laogai, documented in books by dissident hero Harry Wu and others. I hope this is the answer. Or perhaps he just doesn't care. Perhaps he now thinks that Israel's political and economic strategies outweigh all moral considerations, as some world leaders said of their own policies when Russian Jews were the victims.

If so, he should say so openly, and put the lie to everything his life once stood for. At least then we won't have to labor under the illusion that heroes still walk among us.

The struggle for human rights in China may be a sidebar to the Deng funeral story, but in the coming months and years it will grow in importance.

This is a fight a man like Natan Sharansky ought to be part of. He could be the one to finally raise questions about Israel's dealings with China and make a difference.

The writer is executive editor of the Connecticut Jewish Ledger.

Tell us you're still an ardent advocate of human rights everywhere

A bit of humility

MARWAN BISHARA

The countdown for the Labor party primaries has started, with Ehud Barak making important strides toward claiming the leadership. Media estimates have him leading comfortably over Yossi Beilin.

The reason: Barak is considered most capable of defeating the next Likud candidate for the premiership. Why? Because he is tough, an army chief of staff who would erase the wimpiness of Shimon Peres and steer the party back onto the track of Yitzhak Rabin.

This, at least, is the impression that dominates the party ranks. They are wrong on both counts.

Fifty years after independence, Israel no longer needs a soldier to lead it.

The IDF is more than capable of defending its borders at this point in the peace process. Israel's complex regional and world relations, its sensitive negotiations, with its neighbors, require a man with convictions and a clear vision. Running a \$95b. trade-oriented economy requires knowledge and experience, both of which Barak lacks.

Barak is no Rabin. True, the late prime minister was also a soldier, a man of borders who led the IDF into the West Bank and conquered Jerusalem. But three decades later he had the courage to embrace reconciliation and accept the Oslo agreements out of conviction.

This would not have happened had he not listened to Shimon Peres, the man Barak is indirectly discrediting, who realized the importance of expanding Israel's frontiers beyond the limitations of its borders.

INSTEAD of lecturing Netanyahu from the Knesset podium on the merits of humility, Barak could use a little humility himself and learn some lessons from the man he intends to replace as Labor

Ehud Barak needs to start talking to the Arab electorate

Furthermore, Barak can talk and act as tough as he wishes, but without the Arabs in Israel he won't make it. By the year 2000, they will comprise some 15 percent of the vote — and they are in no mood for tough talk. Unlike in previous elections, the Labor party can no longer automatically count on their vote.

Barak needs to state why he is better than Benjamin Netanyahu for Israelis, both Arabs and Jews. If he favors more compromises with the Arabs, he needs to specify them. If he favors acting tougher with his negotiating partners, he must also clarify. Because if he should act tough in the Labor primaries, he will have to swallow his words for Arab support in the final round.

With the Likud mustering more than two-thirds of the Knesset votes behind the Oslo process, who needs a Barak-led majority of 61 votes? Besides, Barak was behind most of what went wrong with the Peres policies. From West Bank closures to the Grapes of Wrath, Barak's advice revolved around security solutions.

The Palestinian conflict with Israel today is political. It takes a general to see it in merely military terms.

Needless to say, neither the Oslo process nor Shimon Peres satisfies Arab voters' political aspirations, let alone Palestinian national demands. This is a political war in which battles are won and lost — but at least the process is moving forward.

The Palestinian citizens of Israel — and the Palestinians in general — have decided to fight their wars politically. And it is no longer clear that Barak's next battles is ours.

The Arabs in Israel are better organized than ever before; their identity is in healthier shape than ever. And as the peace process advances, their political agenda brims with items relating not only to the negotiations, but to their life and progress in Israel.

They reject classical Labor justifications for discriminating against them as citizens based on security imperatives, and they can translate their dissatisfaction into electoral power.

Unless Barak is planning to use the army, he had better start talking to the Arab electorate. And if the Mafpaniks want to recapture the premiership — well, they don't need a tough figure. They need to figure out what they stand for.

The writer is a Palestinian author from Nazareth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Sir, — I was astonished and dismayed to read in your article of February 11, "PA agrees to transfer burned boy to Hadassah" that Dr. Yitzhak Sever is quoted as having said that Augusta Victoria Hospital has been taken over by the PA. There is no truth whatsoever to this statement.

The Augusta Victoria Hospital is owned and operated by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), headquartered and registered as an international organization in Geneva. Managed and funded through the Department of World Service of the LWF, it has a Geneva-appointed board of governors for the hospital. The LWF has always been and continues to be in full compliance with all requirements under the law for operating a hospital in Jerusalem.

FAILED CONCEPT

Sir, — Studying World War I we are amazed that a handful of generals of limited ability were able to destroy an entire generation of European youth through the fixed "concept" of trench warfare. Now, for the past 15 years, the families of Israel and their sons are still captive to a failed concept that has brought untold tragedy and loss to Israel and to Lebanon, to the IDF, to the residents of the northern border and everywhere else, and to the chances of peace.

We are our own victims of a "concept" that can't distinguish between Palestinians 20 years ago, trying to take hostages to free PLO prisoners, and Lebanese Shi'ites (once our allies) who don't want Israeli soldiers in their country and who are willing to fight with the advantages of home territory and motivation, against an Israel army engaged in the wrong war in the wrong place.

The slaughter inadvertently by Israeli artillery of 100 Lebanese women and children taking refuge in a UN camp should have made a convincing statement about our self-defeating, fruitless continuing travail in that bloody land; yet the "concept" remains in place. Who has the courage to call out clearly, "the emperor is naked?"

In tribute to the boys who have been sacrificed let us strive to achieve a pull-out from Lebanon, now!

BURTON M. HALPERN

Tel Aviv.

NOT CHARITY

Sir, — Batsheva Tsur's article "Prisoners of Zion living in poverty" (February 7) was very timely, as the Knesset was preparing to vote to draft a new law, proposed by MK Emanuel Zissmann, to provide pensions for former Prisoners of Zion. While the article is very much appreciated, it is important to point out a major oversight.

Prisoners of Zion and other activists received tremendous tributes from Israel and the Jewish world. Their relentless work enabled thousands of Soviet Jews to make aliya during the 1970s and '80s. Ms. Tsur wrote about the former Prisoners of Zion in the Soviet Union who, for some 10 to 20 years, struggled to create the Jewish movement in the USSR under the extremely difficult and dangerous conditions of the Communist regime and KGB oppression. For the years of work they did for Israel

and for Zionism, those who now have reached "retirement age" deserve to receive a pension like all other citizens of Israel who worked in the country or abroad on behalf of the state.

Society grants pensions to its older citizens according to their years of work and service, without checking what they have and how they live. So the issue is not about giving the Prisoners of Zion charity for their "poverty," but to provide them with a pension, like all other Israeli citizens, for the years of work that they have done for the Jewish State. While many former Prisoners of Zion may in fact need the pension to sustain themselves, the key point is that they earned it and they deserve to receive it.

YOSEF BEGUN,
(Former Soviet Prisoner of Zion)

Jerusalem.

EXPLANATION, PLEASE

Sir, — Could someone please explain the logic behind Prime Minister Netanyahu's moves to release terrorists with Jewish blood on their hands and his readiness to withdraw from the Land of Israel?

It seems that the Israeli public who elected him not to do these things deserves an explanation.

LEAH WOLF

Meitar.

LLOYD MORRISON

Berlin.

Before the heavens close

P. DAVID HORNIK

and thousands of murders. Some of us didn't understand where Rabin and Peres got the moral and legal authority to grant this amnesty; but there was nothing we could do about it.

The Israeli electorate was bamboozled. Labor had won the 1992 elections by showcasing Rabin as a centrist hawk; its platform promised no talks with the PLO.

Can morality be laid aside in the name of pragmatism?

no retreat from the Golan, a united Jerusalem. Lies and cynicism.

People with a record of cruelty and corruption were imported from Tunisia and elsewhere and imposed on a civilian population as its government.

Israelis were allowed to be murdered. The killers fled to a safe haven. They were not pursued, and those in charge of the haven were not held accountable.

Israel's democratic process was raped. Oslo 2 — an agreement that profoundly affects the future of Israel and the Jewish people — was opposed by a majority of Zionist MKs, but squeaked through the Knesset on the strength of the votes of the anti-Zionist Arab parties and the two turncoats from Tsomet, Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb.

Murderers were released en masse from prisons. First we were assured that it was only those with Arab, not Jewish, blood on their hands. Then the criteria were stretched a little... and some with

And... if you hearken diligently unto my commandments... I will give the rain for your land in its season... that you may gather in your grain, and your wine, and your oil. — Deuteronomy 11:13-14

Whether or not one accepts the notion of God's involvement in human affairs, there is a concept in those lines to which Israel in 1997 should hearken.

The concept is that there is a link between morality and well-being. Moral principles are not just grand abstractions; to an extent, morality and practicality are the same thing.

For the architects and prime movers of Oslo — Yossi Beilin, Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin — the gap between morality and practicality was wide. In other words, the end justified the means: Oslo was the path to peace, therefore moral principles could be tossed by the wayside.

To be sure, the relationship is not a simple one. Sometimes, especially in the political domain, morality has to be bent, or even abandoned in pursuit of larger goals.

The most dramatic example in this century was Roosevelt's and Churchill's forging of an alliance with a monster, Stalin, against a more menacing monster, Hitler. Few would deny that it was justified.

Still, a heavy price had to be paid: the Soviet Union emerged from the war militarily and territorially strengthened.

The result was over four decades of Cold War — and, down to this day, a potentially aggressive, nuclear-armed Russia.

In the name of the Oslo peace process, Yasser Arafat and his PLO cronies were given a blanket amnesty for decades of terrorism

Jewish blood on their hands were released, too — but only if they were women. (The PC folks never raised a peep of protest at any of this.)

But it was all justified, in the name of peace.

WERE Beilin, Peres, and Rabin right? Can peace be bought at the price of deception, corruption and murder?

Not surprisingly, they were wrong. Israel in 1997 is not a country gladly anticipating the onset of peace. The war in southern Lebanon keeps intensifying. The "entity" taking shape in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza does not look like a peaceful neighbor, but more like a cruel dictatorship that amasses weapons, harbors terror organizations, and preaches hate.

Prime Minister Netanyahu claims he has no choice but to continue the slide to moral chaos. So he has allowed more Israelis to be murdered, and released murderers from prison.

Perhaps he's right. Perhaps the political, diplomatic, and economic momentum the previous government built up around the Oslo process really is irresistible.

If so, one could look at it another way: that having stood so many moral principles on their heads in the pursuit of a warped pragmatism, it is very hard to dig ourselves back out of the hole.

Not only Judaism but other ancient traditions too lay great emphasis on the warning: Break the earth turns barren, the world darkens, the heavens close.

Let's hope it's not too late.

The author is a writer and translator living in Jerusalem.

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1997 The Jerusalem Post
A bit of humility
MARWAN BISHARA

Gotta love that jazz

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Not many people will give away an opportunity to be on the *Cosby* show. And even fewer would give up on being a regular guest on the show. But that is exactly what Dee Dee Bridgewater did last October. They called me when I was on tour in the USA and wanted me to start in two days. It was just impossible for me," she recalls.

The American-born Paris-based jazz singer and actress likes to plan her life well in advance, if that is possible. Which is why she also had to say no to a recent offer from Broadway. "I had a couple of offers but I can't do a Broadway show. I'm not free for that kind of commitment. For me it's always a question of the planning. I try now to be a little bit looser with my time but it makes me nervous."

And then there is the West End as well. "I'll try and see if I can do a guest run for two months as a lead in a musical. Something's coming. I know that, and I have no problems waiting."

But as much as she would like to act on stage and on both the big and small screen, Bridgewater's first love is jazz, and it is this love for jazz which brings her back to Tel Aviv for a concert with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra tomorrow.

Bridgewater did a jazz evening with the IPO a couple of years ago, hoping at the time that the event would pave the way to more regular appearances with symphony orchestras all over the world. But that has not yet happened. "I'll start to get a fair amount of propositions to do works with symphony orchestras and if these concerts go well maybe more offers will come," she says over the phone from Vienna where she was recently performing.



Bridgewater's newest release, a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, reflects her 'developing style that is comparable to Ella's.'

This time around Bridgewater devotes her program first and foremost to two jazz legends: Ella Fitzgerald ("Let's Do It" and "My Heart Belongs to Daddy") and Billie Holiday - with some extra arrangements by Lalo Schiffrin ("Autumn Leaves" and "The Shadow of Your Smile"), and also some pieces by Duke Ellington ("Prelude to a Kiss" and "Come Sunday").

She has just finished recording her newest disc, a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. "It was quite a big undertaking. It will be a fall release on Verve Records. The preparation took approximately two months then it was two weeks recording."

For Bridgewater, Fitzgerald is "the first lady of jazz. I'm now developing a style that is comparable to hers. She was an enormous inspiration for me and I felt a responsibility to do a tribute to her."

As for Billie Holiday, well that's another story altogether. When I grew up I did not consider her to be one of the greatest in the business. But she could interpret a song in a way that nobody else could. But she is unfortunately one of the tragic figures of our time. She's an inspiration of things not to do, not to get into the negative downs of show biz, the drugs and the alcohol."

Bridgewater's greatest dream, however, is to get more involved in producing her own work, as well as the work of other artists. "I want to produce other artists' works, I want to do a wonderful dramatic role in a movie. I want to do more theater and more of what I'm doing now."

"But above all, I want to have more of a hands-on approach as a producer, to really converse with sound engineers, and have more of a say about the sound of my discs."

IN TUNE



Blur's efforts in their latest album prove it to be the most satisfying release yet.

Blur: Full steam ahead, backwards

By DAVID BRINN

When you're number two, you try harder. So after four albums of English guitar pop that paved the way for, but was then upstaged by, the Gallagher boys in Oasis, Blur has forged full steam ahead, backwards.

Championing the American do-it-yourself sound of Beck, Pavement and countless other underground-heroes, Blur has gone lo-fi while retaining its British essence.

Reminiscent of those mid-to-late-1960s albums by The Beatles in which they weren't afraid to mix styles, Blur's latest release is an admirable effort, if only partially successful. The opening track, "Beetlebum," is a *Revolver* era pop that will have you singing along in no time. Things don't get strange until "Country Sad Ballad Man" and "Death of a Party" with their folk a la Beck clanging rhythms.

Proving that you can't hide true colors though, tracks like "On Your Own" and "Look Inside America" brim over with classic rock melodies and vocals that are dead ringers for Mott The Hoople's Ian Hunter.

The closing combination of "Strange News from Another Star," "Movin' On" and "Essex Dogs" fall in their attempt to redefine space psychedelia. But despite the flaws, this may be Blur's most satisfying album so far.

This week's Grammy Awards will likely be another fiasco in which the middle of the road is the only path chosen. Since I was a child and my friends and I called them the Grammys for their hopelessly old-fashioned attitudes towards rock 'n' roll, the Grammys have never missed a chance to prove how out of touch they are.

Things have improved somewhat over the years, and this 13-song sampler of nominated artists and songs in the Record of the Year, New Artist and Female Pop performance categories provides a cross section of interesting material. "Ironic" by Alanis Morissette doesn't stand a chance against Eric Clapton's "Change the World" or Céline Dion's "Because You Loved Me" despite being the infinitely superior song.

And despite the merits of Shawn Colvin and "Get Out of This House," it's more than likely that the Best Female Pop Vocal will go to Toni Braxton or Gloria Estefan, two more conventional choices.

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- BLUR**
Blur (NMC)
1997 GRAMMY NOMINEES
Various Artists (Helicon)
GREATEST HITS
Slade (Helicon)

teeth and a string of number one teen anthems. They were one of the biggest bands to ever come out of England but they hardly raised a dent in the American market.

Spawmed from the same glittery fishpond that bore The Sweet, T Rex and Gary Glitter, the quartet played basic rip-roaring rock anthems for the football and beer crowd. Twenty years later, bands like Oasis call them a major influence.

However, most of those top ten hits sound pretty dated today. With the exception of "Mama Weer All Crazee Now," "Gudbuy T'Jane" and "Cum On Feel the Noise" (it was a rather silly gimmick, now that I have to type it), the material should be locked away in a 1970s time capsule along with platform shoes and shag haircuts.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#2	12	VIA	BEST OF '96
#3	8	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#4	3	NONA	NONA
#5	6	RITA	COLLECTION
#6	2	SHILOMO ARTZI	TWO
#7	17	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#8	NEW!	DAVID BOWIE	EARTHLING
#9	23	OST	BREAKING THE WAVES
#10	7	EHUD BANAI	OD MEAT
#11	10	TONI BRAXTON	SECRETS
#12	11	PRANA	GEOMANTIC
#13	RE	ABBA	GOLD
#14	9	RONIT SHAHAR	SHALOM LATMIMUT
#15	5	VIA	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

War stories, from a female perspective

By HELEN KAYE

Feminism and war make a volatile mix. The result is the Guild Theater production of Jodi Schenk's *Unborned*, a new English-language play that follows the lives of five volunteer nurses at an army hospital in England during World War I.

"I was reading Barbara Tuchman's *The Guns of August*," says Schenk, who's one of the five, "and I was struck very suddenly that so many people had died in war that nobody even talks about any more. And as a modern woman in Israel who's expected to be involved - and I am - in what's going on, I wondered about the women in that war. They didn't have the rights and the freedoms that we have, and yet they were very valuable."

Amid the endless folding of linens, rolling of bandages and the care they give to the bloody and less than healthy men, the women learn to know each other and themselves.

"The war is an image," says *Unborned* director, Schenk's husband, Rob. "You get characters together and see how they connect to one another in the time of the whole horror, we'd be paralyzed."

Minette (Prina Isseroff), is a

famous opera singer, and a refugee from Belgium with a husband somewhere on the Western front. Camilla Buchinis plays the under-educated cockney Candace, a pregnant war bride. Lilla (Julia Garb) is aristocracy and a mystery while Francis (Schenk) revels in freedom far from home in the American mid-West. Matron Ashe (Jacqui Cantoni), a seasoned hospital veteran and certified battle-ax, keeps them in line and on course.

"Of course World War I is a metaphor," Schenk agrees, "for loss of innocence, for enforced transition and for how you cope with it," a situation that we face time and again, directly or indirectly.

The Schenks immigrated from the US in 1990, days before the Gulf War broke out, "and people we'd never even seen before asked us 'can we help you?' and I wanted that in the play," she says.

Unborned is at the Ra'anana Yad Lebanim tonight and Wednesday.

THEATER REVIEW

'Dinner' hits the funny bone

By NAOMI DOUDAI

Sophisticated boulevard entertainment, rib-tickling farce" say the rave reviews for this latest British export.

Rib-tickling, yes - if that's where your funny bone is. Sophisticated, no, unless there are boulevards in Blackpool where the flip-mouthed fun and fast-

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
By M. Camoletti, Director, Colin McIntyre, Barrie Stacey Productions, London



'Don't Dress for Dinner' is full of steamy situations and sizzling cracks.

of being turned on, lightly, mindlessly and incessantly.

Tightly directed but not so consummately cast, performances, though lively and energetic, don't give out the charm needed to glamorize such a glut of amorous liaisons. One is left suspecting that this is not the same team that graced the much-vaunted hit in the West End.

processed wit of this far-from-subtle show could easily have been born.

Don't Dress for Dinner, a highly commercialized comedy of errors, is the would-be outrageously sexy successor to Britain's oldtime tongue-in-cheek "bedroom" farce. A rattling, boisterous structure of vaudeville repartee, verbal slapstick, and West End tricks, it certainly levels with the tickleholder's outlay in terms of steamy situations and non-stop, sizzling cracks.

If laughs are what people pay for there is laughter enough here to recoup for the paid-for privilege

AUTHENTICA
Works by Monteverdi, Lambert, Charpentier, Alessandro Scarlatti, Montéclair, Vivaldi, Lemoigne, Couperin - Israel Seminarium Musicae

Gerard Lesac with his Seminario Musicae ensemble (Blandine Rannou - harpsichord, Bruno Cocset - cello, Pascal Montelheit - theorbo) - is a rare event.

Though French himself, the sonority of his voice and its singular clarity could, paradoxically, be appreciated best in the Italian selection. It was in pieces by Monteverdi, Alessandro Scarlatti and an Italian cantata by Montéclair that he permitted himself to let go and to allow his captivating voice to bloom in its full glory. This occurred, perhaps, because of the dramatic-extroverted character of this music.

In the French works by Lambert, Charpentier and Couperin he sounded more restrained, underlining their intimate, chamber-like traits at the expense of a merely vocal display. Particularly enchanting was the extraordinary subtlety of nuances and delicacy of rendition.

Rannou's performance of harpsichord pieces by Forqueray was admirably flexible and full of pep.

The songfulness and virtuoso playfulness of a Vivaldi dello sonata was displayed by Cocset. *Jerusalem Theater, February 15.*

Ury Eppstein

"HULIN," A newly commissioned divertimento for orchestra by Israeli composer Haim Permont, was premiered by the Israel Sinfonietta under Uri Mayer at their "Classica" No. 5 series concert.

It is accessible - a loosely structured, rhythmic work, whose vigorous consonant sonority strikes a balance between French Impressionism and Soviet Realism.

Soloist Yaron Windmuller, lyric baritone, gave refined, understated, flowing performances of Bach: *Cantata Ich Habe Genug* and excerpts from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*.

The Sinfonietta and music director Uri Mayer created an attractive and engaging presentation of Haydn's brilliantly high-spirited "Surprise" Symphony No. 94 in G major. *Beersheba Conservatory, February 22.*

Max Stern

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Emotional expression at both ends of the spectrum

Under the title "Berlin in Cabaret Mode," a program of music and background information was presented in the concert-lecture series "From the Twilight of Romanticism to the Dawn of Modernism," edited by musicologist Tomer Lev.

Romanticism at its finest was represented by the young Richard Strauss's little-known songs composed between the ages of 16 and 35 - the ultimate of super-emotional expression. As its antithesis, the evening

command of the various, inflection-rich styles, though the pieces of the Lotte Lenya repertoire had better be omitted to avoid unfavorable comparisons.

As a concert-hall composer, on the other hand, an altogether different aspect of Weill's personality became evident.

In his rarely performed String Quartet, nervous dissonances, restless energies, distorted melodic lines and tortured musical gestures substituted for what was discarded emotionally.

Hindemith carries the disillusionment with Ragtime from his *Suite 1922*, performed brilliantly by Lev.

A tantalizingly fragmentary lecture by David Witznig revealed sensational, well-documented facts and processes on the transition from musical creativity to music regimentation in Germany under the Nazi regime.

His chilling information on the not always tacit sympathies of contemporary intellectual circles with musical nationalism deserve a much wider exposure in full-length program on this still largely unfamiliar subject. *Israel Museum, February 18.*



Ury Eppstein

FROM THE TWILIGHT OF ROMANTICISM TO THE DAWN OF MODERNISM
Works by Richard Strauss, Franz Hindemith, Paul Dessau, Hans Eidel, Kurt Weill, Ruth Maria Nikolat (mezzo-soprano), Tomer Lev (piano), string quartet: Ekkehart Lovenski, Natalie Gandelmann, Leach Levano, Hillel Toubi

cabaret songs turned their backs on emotion: Kurt Weill's acid irony under a thin guise of mock-sensitivity, Paul Dessau's politically aggressive style, and Hans Eisler's tendentious declamatory patterns.

The German mezzo-soprano Ruth Maria Nikolat performed the songs poignantly, with superb

The Jerusalem Post & ZOA House
Friday Morning Forum
QUO VADIS?
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

HAIM RAMON, MICHAEL KLEINER,
MK Labor MK Likud/Gesher/Tzomet

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 10:30 a.m.
ZOA House, 1 Daniel Frisch, corner Ibn Gvirol, Tel Aviv.
Admission NIS 10
Early booking: ZOA House, Tel. 03-6959341

Moderator: David Mitnick, The Jerusalem Post

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their share prices.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists the top 100 TASE issues.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists international shares available in New York.

TASE ROUNDOFF

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, NYSE. Lists TASE roundoff and NYSE data.

Mishtanim 260.47 ▲ 0.99%

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Mishtanim index details.

Maof 269.67 ▲ 1.08%

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Maof index details.

Shares rebounded yesterday

Shares rebounded yesterday from losses on Sunday as investors anticipated an interest rate cut from the central bank and their concern about the Bar-On investigation eased.

After the market closed

After the market closed, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel announced a 0.3 percentage point cut in the benchmark interest rate to 13.9 percent.

Key Representative Rates

Table with columns: US Dollar, Sterling, Mark. Shows key representative rates.

EW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, DJ Comp. Lists EW York market indexes.

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: FTSE 100, Nikkei, Hang Seng. Lists other stock market indexes.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: Pound, Mark, Yen. Lists dollar crossrates.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDOFF

FTSE down slightly LONDON (Reuters) - UK shares finished marginally lower yesterday, weighed down by a batch of ex-dividend stocks as well as uncertainty over forthcoming comment on financial markets from Fed chairman Alan Greenspan.

FTSE down slightly

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US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Cocoa, Coffee, Wheat. Lists US commodities.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Cocoa, Coffee, Wheat. Lists London commodities.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Gold, Silver, Platinum. Lists spot market metals.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Gold, Silver, Platinum. Lists New York metal futures.

WHERE TO GO

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HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA

TELEVISION. What's on in Haifa. Tel Aviv 4-8374253.

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DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific

Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by Commstock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963.

Paris

Table with columns: ABB, BNP, BSE. Lists Paris market data.

Frankfurt

Table with columns: ABB, BNP, BSE. Lists Frankfurt market data.

Investments

Investment opportunities and services.

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Israeli peppers in China
Foreign Minister David Levy inspects green peppers during a visit to the Sino-Israeli demonstration farm in Beijing yesterday, as Agricultural Attache Yogu Saris (left), Ambassador Ora Namir and Chinese officials look on.

Weizman begins three-day state visit to Britain today

By BATSHEVA TSUR

As a former RAF pilot, President Ezer Weizman takes with him "a special feeling" as he and his wife, Reuma, begin a three-day state visit to the United Kingdom today.

"My entire life would have been different had I not served with the RAF," Weizman said yesterday. "We gained a great deal of experience from them which later helped us set up our air force."

Ties between Israel, the Zionist movement and the British, he said, had "many ups and downs." He noted that he had also studied at the RAF Staff College in 1950.

On arrival in London today, the Weizmans will be welcomed by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip and will stay at Buckingham Palace. They will meet other members of the royal family, including the Queen Mother, and Weizman will hold talks with the prime minister and the head of the opposition. He will also meet with members of the



Jewish community. Among the highlights of the visit will be a meeting with the current commander of the RAF and Weizman's tour of his former base.

The president and his wife will also see the famed Cairo Geniza at Cambridge University. The geniza will be brought to Israel in the summer and will go on exhibition at the Israel Museum.

The Weizmans are bringing the queen a unique gift - a very rare book about Palestine, acquired from an amateur private collector.

"We thought that a historical book about Palestine, written by an Englishman, would be an appropriate gift," Reuma Weizman said yesterday. "By sheer chance, we came across a book printed in 1650 in England which contains descriptions, many illustrations and numerous maps of Palestine at that time. The book was written by the clergyman, Thomas Fuller, B.D., who called it *A Pisga-Sight of Palestine*."

Weizman said they had consulted experts and source books to

establish the exact English meaning of the Hebrew word *pisga*. They established that it is generally considered to refer to the mountain from where Moses viewed the Promised Land, as defined by the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

Douglas Davis adds from London:

When President Weizman arrives in London, he will also inspect members of the Scots Guards, who will be issued with commands in Hebrew for the occasion.

During the Weizmans' trip, Reuma Weizman, who spent 18 months in Britain in the immediate aftermath of World War II assisting with the rehabilitation of young Holocaust survivors, will visit the Diamond Riding Center, where handicapped children receive therapy based on horse-riding.

The Weizmans will also attend the unveiling of a statue of Raoul Wallenberg.

The queen is also expected to accept an invitation to visit Israel, possibly during the 50th anniversary celebrations next year.

Hizbullah issues threat of retaliation

By DAVID RIDGE

Hizbullah issued a thinly veiled warning yesterday that it will retaliate with Katyushas in the event of what it described as further aggression by Israel against the Lebanese people.

The threat came after Hizbullah accused the IDF and South Lebanese Army of responsibility for laying roadside bombs near Majdal Zoun, north of the security zone.

Hizbullah maintained that three devices "designed to cause maximum casualties" had been planted near a busy road junction not far from the village.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said two devices exploded harmlessly while sappers were checking the area and another was safely dismantled.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, meanwhile, visited the security zone last night in a show of support for the SLA. He met with Gen. Antoine Lahad and senior officers in Marjayoun and reiterated Israel's commitment to the force and residents of the zone.

He was also briefed on the situation in south Lebanon by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine. He met with senior IDF officers and spoke with them about operations being carried out in the war against Hizbullah.

Hizbullah has also accused Israel of being behind the bombing which killed a woman in Frun, north of the zone, last Thursday.

The Lebanese government complained to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over that incident, charging that parts of the

bomb were manufactured in Israel.

Israel's representative to the group, established to supervise the understandings that ended the Grapes of Wrath fighting last April, rejected the allegations. The IDF Spokesman said that the monitoring group also rejected the allegations.

Reports from Lebanon quoting security sources said that only intense pressure from the Lebanese army and Hizbullah leaders prevented members of the organization from retaliating to that incident with Katyusha fire on the Galilee.

Mohammed Fnaish, a member of the Lebanese parliament on behalf of Hizbullah, was quoted in Beirut newspapers yesterday as saying that the organization would "make the enemy regret every single crime it has committed against the Lebanese people."

"The resistance has its own methods of assessing the situation and we will hit back," said Fnaish, who spoke at a memorial service for the woman killed in Haboush. Another Hizbullah MP, Mohammed Ra'ad, spelled out the threat more clearly in comments in the Lebanese press, saying that the "resistance knows how and when to use Katyushas."

There have been unconfirmed reports that Hizbullah may have acquired Katyushas with a range of around 40 km. from Iran. If true, this would put Haifa's bay-side suburbs in range.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said at the height of the Grapes of Wrath fighting that the organization possessed longer-range weapons which it would use when necessary.

WEATHER

Golan 2-9
Haifa 9-16
Tiberias 8-16
Afula 7-15
Samaria 4-12
Tel Aviv 10-16
Jerusalem 8-11
Beer Sheva 10-18
Dead Sea 11-21

Forecast: Partly cloudy, possibility of rain.

AROUND THE WORLD

	Low	High	Notes
Amsterdam	10	50	rain
Buenos Aires	18	66	clear
Caracas	22	75	clear
Chicago	38	48	clear
Copenhagen	39	48	rain
Frankfurt	39	48	rain
Geneva	39	48	rain
Helsinki	39	48	rain
Hong Kong	18	81	clear
London	14	53	rain
Los Angeles	14	53	rain
Madrid	13	52	rain
Manila	24	79	rain
Montreal	12	50	rain
Moscow	12	50	rain
New York	38	48	rain
Osaka	10	50	rain
Paris	10	50	rain
Rome	10	50	rain
Stockholm	38	48	rain
Sydney	13	53	rain
Tokyo	13	53	rain
Toronto	13	53	rain
Vienna	13	53	rain
Zurich	13	53	rain

Winning cards

In yesterday's Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of spades, 10 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

Ministry complains over de Charette visit

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Israel has lodged an official complaint with France over Foreign Minister Herve de Charette's allegedly promising to make an extended visit next week, but scheduling only a one-day stop.

Officials in Jerusalem said that during a private visit to France last month, Levy believed he had secured a commitment from de Charette to visit for two or three days, in an attempt to erase the bad impression left after last fall's visit by President Jacques Chirac.

During his visit, Chirac pushed an Israeli bodyguard, and spoke in the Palestinian legislature in favor of Palestinian control of eastern Jerusalem. Moreover, in the original program, Chirac was to spend virtually no time at the Western

Wall, while spending time at other religious shrines in Jerusalem's Old City.

However, when Levy became aware last week that de Charette would only visit Israel and the Palestinian Authority for a day during a March 4-6 regional swing also involving Syria and Lebanon, "he flew into a rage," a Foreign Ministry official said.

Levy insisted that the Foreign Ministry summon French Ambassador Jean Noel de Lacoste to complain.

Moreover, Ambassador to France Avi Pazner filed a similar complaint with the French Foreign Ministry, officials said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said DeLacoste was summoned last week to the ministry, where "we expressed our discontent over changes in the

program for the visit." Palmor said Paris had originally promised "a full state visit of two or three days."

"We don't mind what he does in the region once he is here, but instead of dedicating two or three days to Israel on a full-scale visit, he will be here for a 24-hour visit which will include a visit to the Palestinian Authority," Palmor said.

"Since there had been a promise [of a longer visit], the minister instructed the ministry to express his discontent," he said.

"I don't think we should beg de Charette to visit," one official said privately. "He can stay home. However, as Levy became personally offended, the Foreign Ministry has decided to file a complaint."

Levy: Israel, Yemen discussing ties

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Foreign Minister David Levy confirmed yesterday that Israel and Yemen are discussing establishing official ties through the opening of interest offices.

Speaking to Israel Radio during

a visit to China, he confirmed a report in *Yediot Aharonot* that Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur secretly met the Yemeni foreign minister in Europe over the weekend.

"Even before this we sent a special emissary who brought a message from me," Levy said. "We

are maintaining channels of communications and now we are heading ... towards the main thing, another country with which we can open an interest office."

Levy said he could give no further details until Israel and Yemen issued a joint announcement. *Yediot Aharonot* reported that

Yemen had agreed as a first stage to allow up to 10,000 Israelis of Yemenite extraction to visit and Israeli companies to invest in the country. There had been plans for singer Ofra Haza, who is of Yemenite extraction, to perform in Yemen but this was cancelled once it was disclosed.

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